

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 4, 17, 18, 24 and 30.

Please amend claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 19, 20, 22, 25 and 27 as follows:

*a<sup>2</sup>*  
*Sub B. >*

1. (Amended) A method of specifically detecting a strain of *Bacillus anthracis* containing a surface array protein (SEQ ID NO:1) in a test sample, the method comprising:

contacting a test sample with a first antibody that can specifically bind to *Bacillus anthracis* surface array protein (SEQ ID NO:1), wherein the first antibody forms a complex with the surface array protein if the surface array protein is present in the test sample; and

detecting whether the surface array protein is bound to the first antibody with a second antibody that binds to the surface array protein, wherein the presence of surface array protein is indicative of the presence of *Bacillus anthracis* in the test sample.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first or second antibody is a recombinantly produced antibody.

*a<sup>3</sup>*

6. (Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the first or second antibody is a recombinantly produced polyclonal antibody.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first or second antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the test sample is not cultured prior to contacting with the first antibody.

*a<sup>4</sup>*

11. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first antibody is immobilized on a solid support.